

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed October 19, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 3, 6, 12, and 15 are canceled. Claims 1, 5, 9, 10, and 14 have been amended. Claims 16-18 are added. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-11, 13-14, and 16-18 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 9, and 10 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed October 19, 2004, claims 1-3, 7-12, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,142,276 (Pinschmidt).

Claims 4-5 and 13-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Pinschmidt.

Although claims 1-15 were listed as rejected on the Office Action Summary, dependent claim 6 was not specifically rejected over prior art in the body of the Office Action. The limitations of claim 6 are incorporated into each independent claim 1, 9, and 10. Each independent claim now recites "said at least one triggering element being of separate design from said clutch housing and connected to said clutch housing by a screw or rivet connection". In contrast to the claimed invention, Pinschmidt discloses a housing for a multiplate clutch in which a ring having a projection 88 for generating a pulse is connected to the clutch housing. However, there is no teaching or suggestion for connecting at least one triggering element to the clutch housing by a screw or rivet connection. The Examiner points to col. 6, lines 16-20 of Pinschmidt as disclosing a screw. However this section of Pinschmidt merely states that the flywheel and disk are connected to each other by bolts. Accordingly Pinschmidt fails to disclose that the at least one triggering element is connected to the clutch housing by a screw or rivet connection, as expressly recited in independent claims 1, 9, and 10. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is

respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 9, and 10 are not anticipated by Pinschmidt under 35 U.S.C. §102.

Since Pinschmidt discloses that the projection 88 is mounted on a ring 74 which is mounted between two parts of the clutch housing, there is no teaching or suggestion in Pinschmidt that the at least one triggering element is connected to the clutch housing by a screw or rivet connection, as expressly recited in independent claims 1, 9, and 10. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 9, and 10 is also not obvious in view of Pinschmidt and is allowable under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Dependent claims 2, 4-5, 7-8, 11, 13-14, and 16-18, each being dependent on one of independent claims 1, 9, and 10, are deemed allowable for the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claims 1, 9, and 10.

Dependent claims 5 and 14 further recite "wherein the triggering elements or triggering element groups have an engagement projection which engages an assigned mating engagement projection on said clutch housing for forming a radially positive locking connection between the triggering elements or triggering element groups and the clutch housing, the radially positive locking connection preventing radial outward movement of the triggering element or triggering element groups relative to said clutch housing". An example of this feature is shown in Fig. 2 and described in paragraph 0014 of the present application in which engagement projection 22 engages a mating engagement projection 24.

Pinschmidt fails to teach or suggest the limitations of dependent claims 5 and 14. Pinschmidt discloses only that a projection 88 on a ring 74 acts as the triggering element. There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion for the claimed engagement projection and mating

engagement projection. Accordingly, dependent claims 5 and 14 are allowable for at least these additional reasons.

New dependent claims 16-18 each recite "wherein said at least one triggering element is individually connected to said clutch housing and includes an engagement projection which engages an assigned mating engagement projection on said clutch housing for forming a radially positive locking connection between said at least one triggering element and said clutch housing, the radially positive locking connection preventing radial outward movement of said at least one triggering element relative to said clutch housing". This is similar to the limitations of claims 5 and 14 described above. However, these claims require "at least one triggering element" and states that the at least one triggering element is individually connected to the clutch housing. As stated above, Pischmidt fails to disclose that the at least one triggering element has an engagement projection for engaging an assigned mating engagement projection on the clutch housing for forming a radially positive locking projection. Accordingly, dependent claims 16-18 should also be allowable over Pischmidt for at least these additional reasons.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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